

A Qualitative Study of Time Overrun of Completed Road Projects Awarded by the Niger Delta Development Commission in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Time overrun of completed road projects awarded by the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria from its inception in 2000 up to 2015 was studied. Out of 3315 roads awarded, only 1081 roads representing 31.65 percent were completed within the review period. The qualitative study was carried out on randomly selected completed 162 road projects for analysis, and a conceptual model of time series was developed. In developing the regression model, both dependent and independent variables were subjected to normality tests assessed by skewness coefficient, kurtosis value, Jarque-Bera test, residual probability plot, heteroscedasticity test and the variance inflation factor. Also, with knowledge of total road projects awarded by the Commission, it is now possible to predict proportions of roads experiencing schedule overruns.

Keywords: Construction delays, Time overrun, Qualitative studies, Inflation factor

1.0. Introduction

Schedule control is the main key to a successful project (Pall *et al.*, 2016). A construction project is acknowledged as successful when the aim of the project is achieved in terms of the predetermined objectives of the completed projects which include completing the projects on time, within budget and desired quality in accordance with the specifications, as well as to stakeholder's satisfaction (Owolabi *et al.*, 2014; Khan, 2015). Time overruns give negative impressions on the project and all the involved construction parties. Ramli *et al.* (2018) asserted that when this happens, the overall project performance will decrease and competency of involved workers and professionals will be doubtful.

Delay is one of the numerous challenges of construction worldwide. The others include cost overrun, construction waste, poor safety, poor quality, excessive resource consumption and threat to environment (Memon *et al.*, 2014). Although scientific and engineering tools have been applied to improve construction process, the complex nature of road construction projects still makes construction delays inevitable.

Fregenti and Cominios (2012) defined construction delay as time lag in completion of activities from its specified time in the contract but, Mohamad (2010) defined construction delay as an act or event that extend the time to complete or perform an act under the contract. Pickavance (2010) refers to construction delay as something happening at a late time than planned, expected, specified in a contract or beyond the date the parties agreed upon for the delivery of a project, Kolhe and Darade (2014) conceptualized delay to mean loss of revenue to the owner through lack of production facilities and rent-able space or a dependence on present facilities. While all above studies and many more theorize construction delay essentially in terms of time overruns that go beyond agreed date, Lo *et al.* (2006) however, introduced a different view of delay, in which the progress of work has not entirely stopped but has slowed down. The perception emphasises the slowing of progress, in contrast with the generally held view of postponement and stoppage of work. Another closely related concept of construction delay is construction disruption which Kikwasi (2012) defined as events that disturb the

construction programme and interferes with the flow of work in the project. Chai *et al.* (2015) also introduced the concept of sick projects defined as projects that results from delay with extensive critical delays, leading to abandonment. A simple pictorial illustration of the concept of construction delay as depicted by Chai *et al.* (2015) is shown in Figure 1.

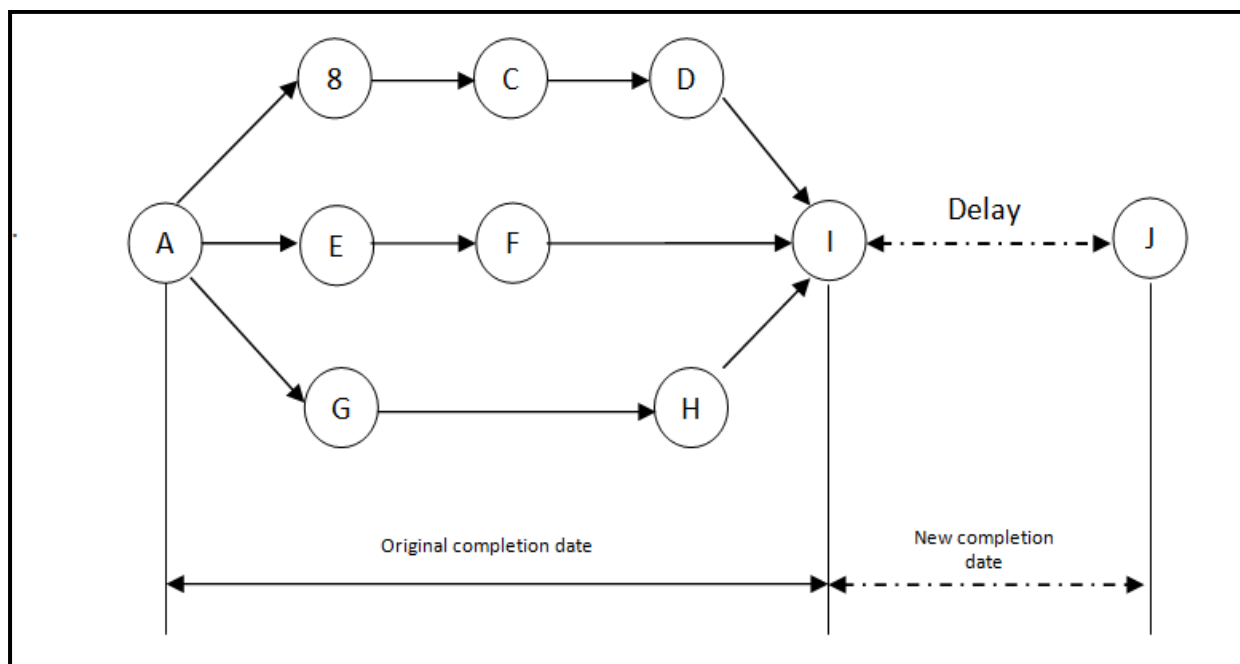


Figure 1: Philosophy of delay in the construction industry (Chai *et al.*, 2015)

The major challenges when prescribing solutions of handling delay problems in construction processes have been magnitude and size, availability of fund, environment, organisational structure, etc. One of such scientific process introduced by Fregenti and Cominios (2012) rests on the cumulative aggregation of the principles of STEEPOL, GRC and MEDIC in achieving a strategically planned project:

STEEPOL

S = Social
T = Technology
E = Environmental
E = Economic
P = Political
O = Organisation
L = Legal

GRC

G = Governance, mandate, ethics
R = Risk
C = Compliance, standards, specifications

MEDIC

M = Maintain
E = Eliminate
D = Decrease
I = Increase
C = Create

Duerkop and Hurt (2017) also proposed a PESTLE (Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Legal and Environmental) model in assuring that critical infrastructure are delivered to time and cost. Fregenti and Cominios (2012) identified four variables as critical factorial determinants of a successful project as shown in Figure 2.

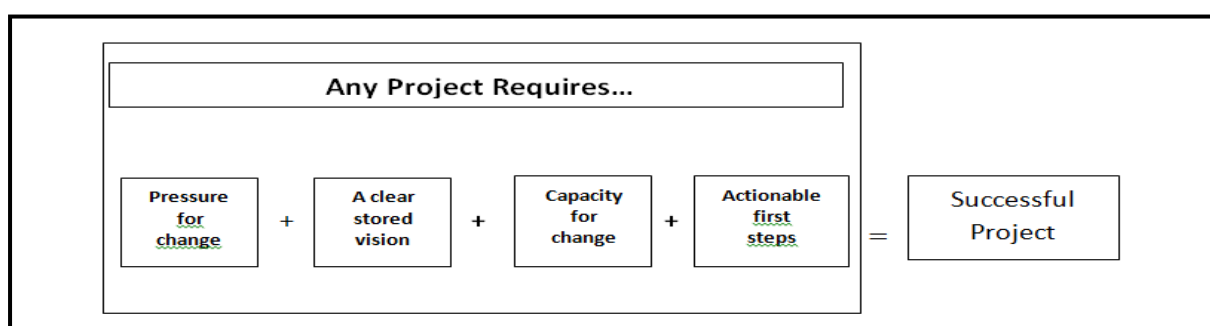


Figure 2a: Success factors for project implementation

Source: Fregenti and Cominios (2012)

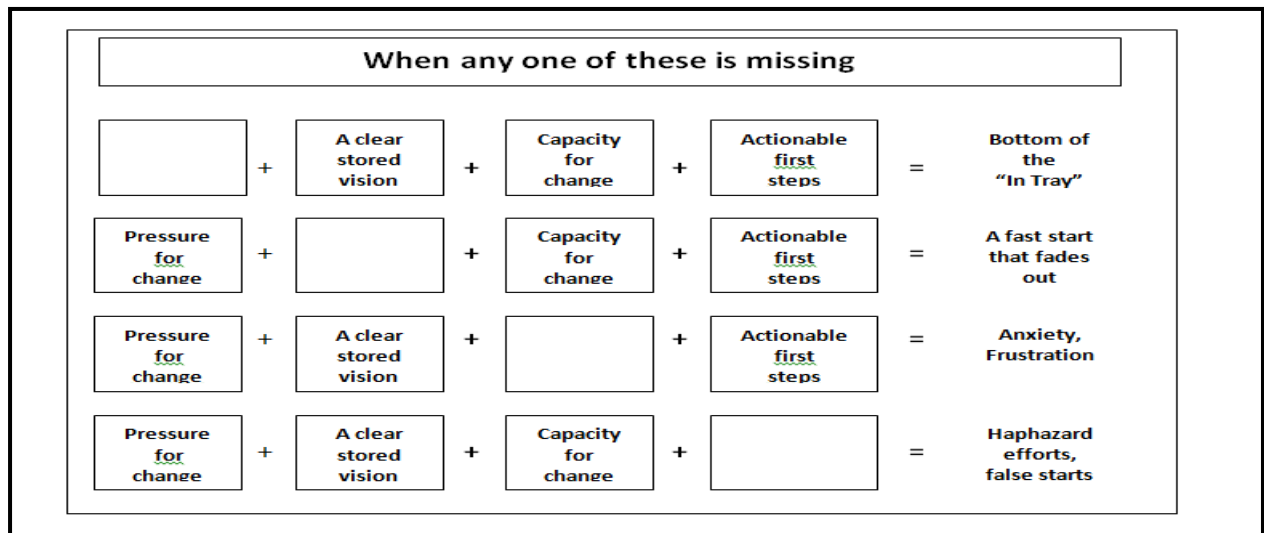


Figure 2b: Success factors for project implementation

Source: Fregenti and Cominios (2012)

In 2008, NDDC appointed ACCENTURE-Nigeria to carry out a Repositioning of the Commission. They were also to assist in building the Project Management Capacity of the Commission and assure timely delivery of high impact infrastructural projects. However, road projects awarded by the Commission afterwards still suffer from abandonment and time overrun.

As at 2016, NDDC had a total project portfolio of above 8,355 with roads/bridges projects accounting for over 3,300 (Ekere, 2017), and only about 30 percent of these roads projects are completed. There is also the perception that schedule overrun experienced on road projects awarded by NDDC results in expensive litigations. Omatsuli (2014) posited that the Commission as at 2014 had about 400 Legal cases instituted against it by aggrieved stakeholder in nine states of the Niger Delta Region with huge financial repercussion on the Commission.

2.0. Research Methodology

Physical visits to project sites and desk-top project file assessment were conducted on some completed road projects awarded by NDDC. Time-lag data of 162 data sets were analysed to enable the conduct of time-series and, the development of a regression model.

2.1. Data collection

Data were collected on completed road projects awarded by NDDC in the Nine State making up the region. While a total of 340 completed road projects were studied only 162 of these projects were analysed for the following reasons: (i) many of the completed projects were not comprehensively documented (ii) states like Edo and Ondo have relatively small number of well documented completed projects of 10 and 6 respectively (iii) Cross River state has 20 well documented completed projects and approximately this number of projects were taken for the other six states; (iv) only completed projects valued above two hundred million Naira (N200m) was considered for this study so that small and *informal* completed "road" projects like grading of roads, foot bridges, minor rehabilitation works, etc. were excluded. Table 1 below shows the distribution of completed road projects used for the studies.

Table 1: Completed road projects awarded by NDDC in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria

S/N	State	Completed road projects	Completed road projects with complete documentation	Selected data sets
1	Abia	73	33	21
2	Akwa-Ibom	109	42	21
3	Bayelsa	78	34	21
4	Cross River	46	20	20
5	Delta	219	51	21
6	Edo	46	10	10
7	Imo	96	40	21
8	Ondo	28	6	6
9	Rivers	374	104	21
10	Regional	12	-	-
11	Total	1081	340	162

3.0. Results and Discussion

3.1. Time overrun

Tables 2 and 3 show results of qualitative studies of some completed road projects awarded by NDDC. Table 2 show the numerical time-lag in weeks and Table 3 show the percentage time-lag in weeks.

Table 2: Grouping of time overrun of completed NDDC roads (above N200 million Naira)

State	Time lag (weeks)									Projects
	0	Less than 26	27-52	53-104	105-156	157-208	209-260	261-312	Above 312	
Abia	5	2	4	6	3	0	0	0	1	21
Akwa-Ibom	8	4	1	2	2	0	1	1	2	21
Bayelsa	4	3	6	2	5	1	0	0	0	21
Cross River	5	3	3	3	4	2	0	0	0	20
Delta	5	5	2	4	4	0	0	0	1	21
Edo	2	1	3	2	0	2	0	0	0	10
Imo	10	0	3	4	3	1	0	0	0	21
Ondo	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	6
Rivers	8	2	1	5	4	0	0	1	0	21
Total	47	21	24	30	26	6	1	3	4	162

Table 3: Percentage of groups of time overrun of completed roads (above N200 million Naira)

State	Time lag (%)									Projects
	0 %	Less than 26%	27-52%	53-104%	105-156%	157-208%	209-260%	261-312%	Above 312%	
Abia	23.80	9.52	19.05	28.57	14.29	0	0	0	4.76	21
Akwa-Ibom	38.10	19.05	4.76	9.52	9.52	0	4.76	4.76	9.52	21
Bayelsa	19.05	14.29	28.57	9.52	23.81	4.76	0	0	0	21
Cross River	25.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	20.00	10.00	0	0	0	20
Delta	23.81	23.81	9.52	19.05	19.05	0	0	0	4.76	21
Edo	20.00	10.00	30.00	20.00	0	20.00	0	0	0	10
Imo	47.62	0	14.29	19.05	14.29	4.76	0	0	0	21
Ondo	0	16.67	16.67	33.33	16.67	0	0	16.67	0	6
Rivers	38.10	9.52	4.76	23.81	19.05	0	0	4.76	0	21

Summary result based on a total of 162 completed road project is presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Summary results of projects delayed/not delayed

No. of projects selected	Delay Periods	No. of projects delayed	Percentage of projects delayed
162 Awarded Projects	No Delay	47	29.01
	Less than 26 weeks	21	12.96
	27-52 weeks	24	14.81
	53-104 weeks	31	19.14
	105-156 weeks	26	16.15
	157-208 weeks	6	3.72
	209-260 weeks	1	0.62
	261-312 weeks	3	1.85
	Above 312 weeks	4	2.47

3.2. Regression analysis of time series

One independent and nine dependent variables were employed for this analysis. The selected independent and dependent variables and their codes are presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Independent and dependent variables of time lag data

S/N	Variables	Abbreviation
1	0	X ₁
2	<26	X ₂
3	27-52	X ₃
4	53-104	X ₄
5	105-156	X ₅
6	157-208	X ₆
7	209-260	X ₇
8	261-312	X ₈
9	>312	X ₉
10	Total Projects	Y

To assess the dependence of the variables (X₁, X₂, X₃, X₄, X₅, X₆, X₇, X₈, X₉) on the independent variable (Y), regression analysis using the method of multiple regression was employed. An appropriate time series analysis of time overrun of completed NDDC roads is shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Time series analysis of time overrun of completed NDDC roads

States	Y	X ₁	X ₂	X ₃	X ₄	X ₅	X ₆	X ₇	X ₈	X ₉
Abia	21	5	2	4	6	3	0	0	0	1
Akwa-Ibom	21	8	4	1	2	2	0	1	1	2
Bayelsa	21	4	3	6	2	5	1	0	0	0
Cross River	20	5	3	3	3	4	2	0	0	0
Delta	21	5	5	2	4	4	0	0	0	1
Edo	10	2	1	3	2	0	2	0	0	0
Imo	21	10	0	3	4	3	1	0	0	0
Ondo	6	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	0
Rivers	21	8	2	1	5	4	0	0	1	0
Total	162	47	21	24	30	26	6	1	3	4

3.3. Assessment of normality

For regression analysis, it is expected that the individual variables (dependent and independent) be approximately normally distributed. To test whether the variables are statistically normally distributed, the Jarque-Bera test for normality was employed. Mathematically, the Jarque-Bera test is defined as follows:

$$JB = n \left[\frac{(\sqrt{b_1})^2}{6} + \frac{(b_2 - 3)^2}{24} \right] \quad (1)$$

where:

n sample size

$\sqrt{b_1}$ sample skewness and

b_2 kurtosis coefficient

The null hypothesis for the Jarque-Bera test is that the data is normally distributed while the alternate hypothesis is that the data does not come from a normal distribution. In which case;

H_0 = Data follows a normally distributed

H_1 = Data do not follow a normal distribution

In general, a large JB value indicates that the residuals are not normally distributed. A value of JB greater than 10 means that the null hypothesis has been rejected at the 5% significance level. In other words, the data do not come from a normal distribution. JB value of between (0-10) indicates that data is normally distributed. For normality, the skewness coefficient should not be greater than 1 and the kurtosis should not be greater than 3.4. Also, the Jarque-Bera test value less than 10 and the (p-value) is greater than the 5% significant value are indicative that the null hypothesis should be accepted, whereby, it could be concluded that the data follows a normal distribution. Result of the normality test for the variable X and Y are shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Results of normality test for variables X and Y

S/No	Variables	Skewness Coefficient	Kurtosis value	Jarque-Bera Value	p-value	Normality Status
1	X_1	-0.113335	2.2385	0.2385	88.76%	Normally distributed
2	X_2	0.223607	2.13000	0.358837	83.58%	Normally distributed
3	X_3	0.736612	2.7893	0.830329	66.02%	Normally distributed
4	X_4	0.576161	1.991481	0.886960	64.18%	Normally distributed
5	X_5	-0.566391	2.216048	0.711665	70.06%	Normally distributed
6	X_6	0.680414	1.83333	1.204861	54.75%	Normally distributed
7	X_7	2.474874	7.125000	15.56836	0.04%	Not Normally distributed
8	X_8	0.707107	1.50000	1.593750	45.07%	Normally distributed
9	X_9	1.238006	3.170360	2.309870	31.51%	Not Normally distributed
10	Y	-1.431427	3.2224	3.2224	21.31%	Normally distributed

3.4. Residual probability plot

To ascertain the suitability of regression method in explaining the dependence of the selected dependent variables on the independent variable, the residual probability plot was employed. To apply regression model, the residual probability plot must fluctuate around the linear mean value as presented in Figure 2.

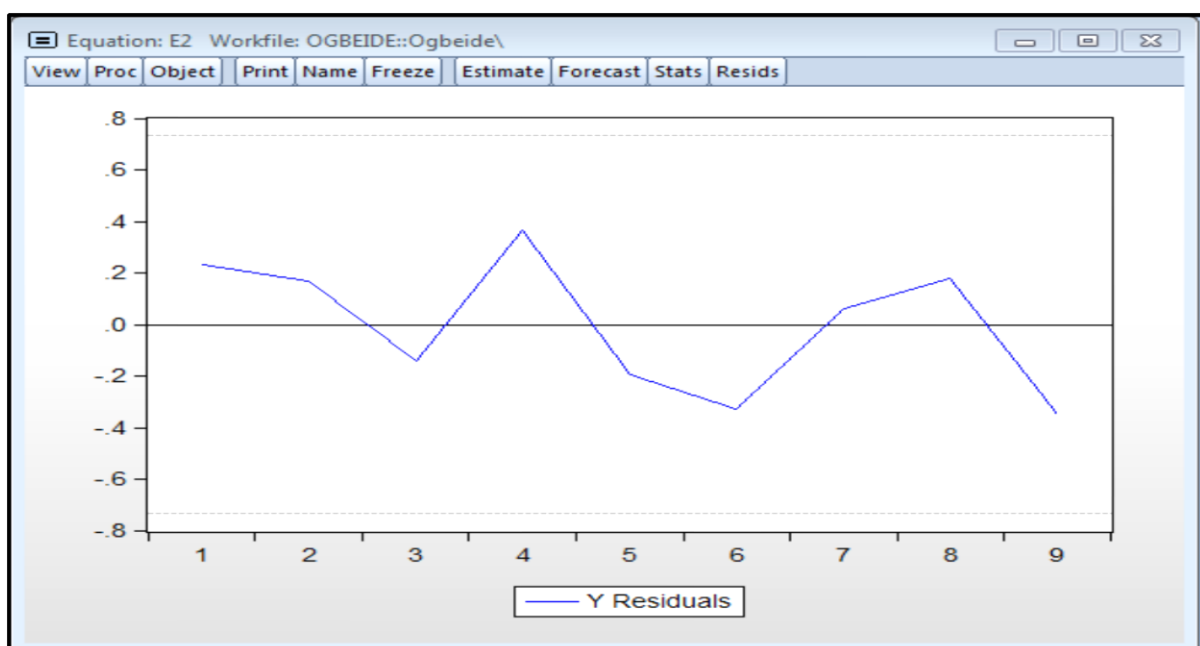


Figure 2: Residual probability plot

Based on the result of Figure 2, it was concluded that multiple linear regression model is suitable for this analysis. In regression analysis of data, it is pertinent to note that standard error estimation and computation of t -statistics are appropriate in calculating the probability (p -value) by which the significance of the regression model is tested. In the presence of heteroscedasticity, it is assumed that the overall standard error of regression and the t -statistics computed for each variable may not be completely adequate to estimate the resulting probability (p -value) of regression. In addition, the presence of serial correlation can lead to a number of issues, namely; make reported standard error and t -statistics to be invalid, and coefficient may be biased, though not necessarily inconsistent. Based on this argument, selected diagnostic statistics were conducted to verify the statistical properties of the overall regression model. The selected diagnostic statistics include; heteroscedasticity test using Breusch-Pagan Godfrey, and Variance Inflation Factor (VIF).

3.5. Heteroscedasticity test

Heteroscedasticity is a diagnostic test statistics used to diagnose the adequacy of the probability (p -value) calculated for each individual variable. Hence it is important to know whether there is or there is no heteroscedasticity in the data. The null and alternate hypothesis of heteroscedasticity was formulated as follows:

H_0 = Presence of homoscedasticity and absence of heteroscedasticity

H_1 = Absence of homoscedasticity and presence of heteroscedasticity

Result of heteroscedasticity using Breusch-Pagan Godfrey is presented in Table 8.

Table 8: Result of heteroscedasticity test

Heteroskedasticity Test: Breusch-Pagan-Godfrey			
F-statistic	7.277403	Prob. F(7,1)	0.2782
Obs*R-squared	8.826729	Prob. Chi-Square(7)	0.2653
Scaled explained SS	0.031356	Prob. Chi-Square(7)	1.0000

Test Equation:				
Dependent Variable: RESID^2				
Method: Least Squares				
Date: 12/07/20 Time: 13:59				
Sample: 1 9				
Included observations: 9				

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	-0.169766	0.057069	-2.974780	0.2065
X1	-0.006944	0.002733	-2.540837	0.2387
X2	0.017513	0.006477	2.703978	0.2255
X3	-0.000119	0.008355	-0.014198	0.9910
X4	0.039412	0.007818	5.041113	0.1247
X5	-0.001986	0.007488	-0.265221	0.8350
X6	0.093439	0.014142	6.606968	0.0956
X8	0.112613	0.031027	3.629536	0.1712

R-squared	0.980748	Mean dependent var	0.059984
Adjusted R-squared	0.845982	S.D. dependent var	0.048265
S.E. of regression	0.018942	Akaike info criterion	-5.514361
Sum squared resid	0.000359	Schwarz criterion	-5.339050
Log likelihood	32.81462	Hannan-Quinn criter.	-5.892681
F-statistic	7.277403	Durbin-Watson stat	2.108480
Prob(F-statistic)	0.278169		

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From the result of Table 8 it was observed that; the calculated (p -value) based on the F -statistics is 0.2782, and the calculated (p -value) based on Lagrange multiplier (LM) is 0.2653. Since the computed (p -value) based on F -statistics and Lagrange multiplier are greater than 0.05 ($P > 0.05$), we accept the null hypothesis of homoscedasticity and conclude that there is no heteroscedasticity in the data.

3.6. Variance Inflation Factor (VIF)

Variance inflation factor (VIF) measures the correlation of the dependent variables with the independent variable. Ideal VIF is 1; VIF greater than 10 is cause for alarm showing the variables are uncorrelated due to multicollinearity. Result of the calculated VIF for the selected variables is presented in Table 9.

Table 9: Calculated variance inflation factors

Variable	Coefficient Variance	Uncentered VIF	Centered VIF
C	4.900458	81.69656	NA
X1	0.011240	6.725070	1.614757
X2	0.063121	8.067697	2.338463
X3	0.105028	16.73119	4.280071
X4	0.091971	20.10293	3.066548
X5	0.084361	15.00159	3.264235
X6	0.300950	5.574676	3.344806
X8	1.448498	8.049402	5.366268

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Since the computed variance inflation factors for the selected dependent variables are less than 10, it was concluded that the variables are well correlated with the independent variable, hence absence of multicollinearity. Finally, the dependence of the selected dependent variables on the independent variable was evaluated using the coded multiple regression equation function presented as:

$$(Y) = C\{X_1 X_2 X_3 X_4 X_5 X_6 X_8\}$$

Variable X_7 and X_9 were omitted since they are not normally distributed. The coded regression equation was implemented using Eviews and results obtained are presented in Table 10.

Table 10: Output of regression analysis

Equation: E4 Workfile: OGBEIDE NEW::Untitled\				
View	Proc	Object	Print	Name
Freeze	Estimate	Forecast	Stats	Resids
Dependent Variable: Y Method: Least Squares Date: 12/07/20 Time: 15:55 Sample: 1 9 Included observations: 9				
Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	-1.197412	2.213698	-0.540911	0.6843
X1	1.227930	0.106019	11.58214	0.0548
X2	1.616039	0.251240	6.432265	0.0982
X3	1.360726	0.324080	4.198738	0.1488
X4	1.020601	0.303268	3.365344	0.1839
X5	0.341867	0.290450	1.177027	0.4483
X6	0.665128	0.548590	1.212433	0.4391
X8	1.657477	1.203535	1.377173	0.3998
R-squared	0.997970	Mean dependent var	18.00000	
Adjusted R-squared	0.983764	S.D. dependent var	5.766281	
S.E. of regression	0.734747	Akaike info criterion	1.801972	
Sum squared resid	0.539853	Schwarz criterion	1.977282	
Log likelihood	-0.108872	Hannan-Quinn criter.	1.423652	
F-statistic	70.24670	Durbin-Watson stat	2.108480	
Prob(F-statistic)	0.091620			

From the result of Table 10, the following observations were made: since the adjusted R-square value of 0.983764 is in reasonable agreement with the observed coefficient of determination R^2 value of 0.997970, it was concluded that the regression model was reasonably adequate. Using the result of Table 10, the overall regression equation was thereafter generated and presented as follows:

$$Y = -1.1974 + 1.2279X_1 + 1.6160X_2 + 1.3607X_3 + 1.0206X_4 + 0.3419X_5 + 0.6651X_6 + 1.6575X_8 \quad (2)$$

4.0. Conclusions

This study shows that NDDC's completed road projects experiences time overrun as indicated below:

- 29.01% of the awarded projects were completely executed within the required duration without delay
- 12.96% of the projects experienced between 1-26 weeks' delay before final completion
- 14.81% of the projects experienced between 27-52 weeks' delay before final completion
- 19.14% of the projects experienced between 53-104 weeks' delay before final completion
- 16.15% of the projects experienced between 105-156 weeks' delay before final completion
- 3.72% of the projects experienced between 157-208 weeks' delay before final completion
- 0.62% of the projects experienced between 209-260 weeks' delay before final completion
- 1.85% of the projects experienced between 261-312 weeks' delay before final completion
- 2.47% of the projects experienced above 312 weeks' delay before final completion
- A conceptual model of time series with Number of Awarded Projects as dependent variables (Y) and Lengths of Construction delay as the independent variable (X) was developed as:

$$Y = -1.1974 + 1.2279X_1 + 1.6160X_2 + 1.3607X_3 + 1.0206X_4 + 0.3417X_5 + 0.6651X_6 + 1.6575X_8$$

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

- NDDC should evolve technologies to document and keep records of her project delivery portfolio. This will enable access to more reliable data for further studies.
- The Commission should also deploy technologies to minimize construction delay on her road projects.

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